REMARKS

Applicant amended independent claims 131 and 219 to further define Applicant's claimed invention. Support for the amendment to independent claims 131 and 219 can be found at least in FIGS. 14 and 13, respectively. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed independent claim 1 and claims 3, 5, 19-51, and 259-271 dependent therefrom. The Examiner objected to the specification under 35 U.S.C. § 132(a) and rejected independent claim 131 and claims dependent therefrom under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicant amended independent claim 131 to recite that the first and second sides of the perimeter are in a convergent relationship to each other and have "an included angle therebetween, said included angle being obtuse." FIG. 14 shows a fragmentary end view of the projection of FIG. 12A. FIG. 14 shows that the perimeter of rearward facet 326 has a first side and a second side in a convergent relationship to each other and having an included angle that is obtuse therebetween. Applicant submits that the objection to the specification under 35 U.S.C. § 132(a) and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, have been overcome.

The Examiner rejected independent claim 131 and claims 133, 135, 137-145, 205, 206, 213-215, and 272-276 dependent therefrom under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,592,624 to Fraser et al. ("Fraser").

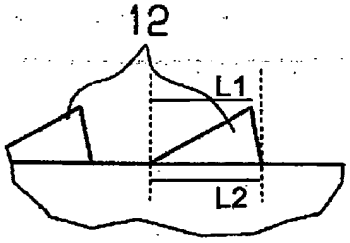
Applicant amended independent claim 131 to recite that the first and second sides of said perimeter that are in a convergent relationship to each other have "an included angle therebetween, said included angle being obtuse." Applicant's FIG. 14 shows that facet 326 includes a perimeter, which from the end view shown in FIG. 14 is in the shape of a triangle. The perimeter of facet 326 has a first side and second side being in a convergent relationship to each other and having an included angle therebetween that is obtuse.

Frasier discloses a triangular projection (18) having a rearward facet (34), a side facet (30), and a side facet (32) opposite side facet (30), the side facets (30, 32) converging at a crest line (36). (See Fraser col. 4, lines 1-8 and FIGS. 1A-1C). FIG. 1A of Fraser shows that the triangular projection (18) of Frasier does not have a forward facet

and that side facet (32) is not opposite rearward facet (34). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's contention that "facet 34 [is] opposite of the first facet" 32. (Office Action, page 5, lines 16-17). Frasier does not teach or suggest a projection having at least a first facet opposite a second facet having a perimeter with a first side and a second side, said first and second sides of said perimeter being in a convergent relationship to each other and having "an included angle therebetween, said included angle being obtuse" as recited in independent claim 131.

The Examiner rejected claim 219 and claims dependent therefrom under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,258,125 to Paul et al.

Applicant amended independent claim 219 to recite an implant including "surface projections having a base with a maximum width and a maximum length greater than the maximum width, the maximum width of said base being transverse to the maximum length of said base," each of the surface projections including a "forward facet having a maximum length as measured along a line parallel to the maximum length of said base, the maximum length of said forward facet being greater than the maximum length of said base." An annotated FIG. 10A of Paul is reproduced below for the Examiner's reference.



Annotated FIG. 10A of Paul shows that the maximum length (L1) of the forward facet as measured along a line parallel to the maximum length (L2) of the base of the projection is less than the maximum length of the base. Paul does not teach or suggest a forward facet having a maximum length as measured along a line parallel to the maximum length of the base that is greater than the maximum length of the base as recited in independent claim 219.

Applicant submits that independent claims 131 and 219 are patentable and that dependent claims 133, 135, 137-145, 205, 206, 213-215, 228-254, 272-276, and 277-284 dependent from one of independent claims 131 and 219, or claims dependent therefrom, are patentable at least due to their dependency from an allowable independent claim.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that the claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicant therefore requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

To the extent any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this reply, such extension is hereby respectfully requested. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed herewith, including any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-3726.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTIN & FERRARO, LLP

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By: / Amedeo F. Ferraro/
Amedeo F. Ferraro
Registration No. 37,129

1557 Lake O'Pines Street, NE
Hartville, Ohio 44632
Telephone: (310) 286-9800
Facsimile: (310) 286-2795